**Out with the Old,**

**in with the New Globe**

**By: Tiarra Harper**

William Shakespeare was one of the Elizabethan Era’s greatest playwrights. He was born in 1564 in the small town of Stratford-upon-Avon. Not much is noted about his early childhood such as education but it is apparent that while in school, William excelled in literature and writing. We also know through his plays, he had an outstanding vocabulary (Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia). Around 1585 William ventured to London to begin his theatrical career. During the early years of Shakespeare’s success the first Globe Theatre was built. Shakespeare ended up producing over 37 plays which portrayed many walks of life, from kings to servants (Wadsworth, 1996). The Globe Theatre was a very important attraction to spectators back in Shakespeare’s days and even now.

Thanks to the financial fall of James Burbage’s theatre, the Theatre, the Globe was constructed. The Old Globe Theatre was built with similar structure as the colosseums of Rome, appearing to have a circular shape and an open top, seating up to three-thousand people at a time (aressel.com). It took Shakespeare’s men approximately six or seven months to complete the three story structure. It was constructed of timber, flint, plaster, and nails ("Old globe theatre," 2005). With an open air style no lighting was needed, for the plays were done in the day time around noon. The Globe Theatre was first used in 1599, with the opening production of *As You Like It*, and continued to be in use by William Shakespeare, Jonson, Beaumont, Fletcher, and other great playwrights of its time. “The rectangular stage at the front of the theatre was about 43 feet wide and 28 feet deep, and it was raised a few feet off the ground so there was a crawl space underneath. There were trap doors in the floor of the stage and in the Heavens in the roof above the stage for entrances, exits, or special effects” (aressel.com). Even seating in the Globe had a structure. The wealthy people got to sit in the galleries, while the poorer patrons, called groundlings, would stand in the yard. The yard was the area against the walls and toward the doors. A spot as a groundling would cost one a penny for admission. All good things come to an end and they did for the Globe Theatre. In 1613 to be exact, during a performance of *King Henry VIII,* there was a pyrotechnics issue and within one hour the Globe Theatre was overtaken by flames.

Three-hundred and thirty-six years after the tragedy of the Globe Theatre, an American actor by the name of Sam Wanamaker was dumbfounded when he went to London looking for History of The Globe Theatre and only found a brewery with a plaque stating that the Globe stood there over 300 years before (aressel.com).